

From the Minister



Right after our children were born, years ago, my husband Joe and I had our first wills drawn. We signed them on my birthday. At the time, I joked it was a dreadful birthday present. As the years move forward I now see it as a great gift. We looked into our future knowing we are mortal. We wanted to make sure we had made provisions for each other and for our children. (Note to self: It is time to look at those documents again...)

While typically February is the month for romantic expressions of love—from hopeful grade school cards to adult articulations—let us consider it the month to tell ones we love how we wish to be treated if when seriously ill. You may also take this opportunity to put on file at the church ideas for what you might want at your memorial service. We have a simple form you may take home. Ask our administrator Maggie Scott for one. Filling it out is a gift of love to leave your family and friends. It is their roadmap of your wishes easing their time of grief.

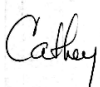
A church is one of the rare places in our lives we can look at our mortality and talk about it with others. We can express the infinite range of emotions arising from considering our own end and the end of others. Even with our children, it is completely normal to wonder where we came from and where we go after we die.

It is an ancient religious practice to ponder the impermanence of all life. Buddhist monks have many texts and rituals to focus their minds and hearts on the inevitability of death. The Christian tradition is rooted in the death and symbolism of Jesus dying on the cross. Dust to dust. Ashes to ashes. In Judaism, death is not a tragedy. It is a natural process.

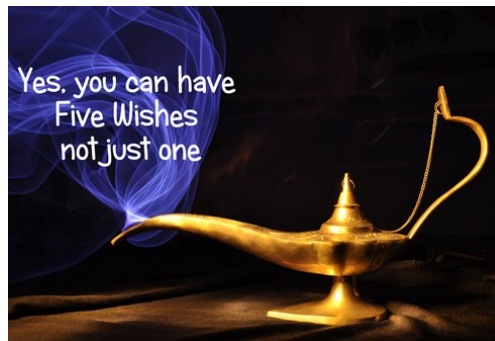
We will begin these conversations together in February during Sunday worship. Look for an announcement of an upcoming workshop based on the curriculum “Five Wishes.” A volunteer working with Mother Teresa witnessed countless deaths and came to understand the five most common wishes of the dying.

This curriculum supports conversations with loved ones to talk about personal, emotional and spiritual needs as well as medical wishes. It culminates in the creation of a living will “with heart and soul.” To view the materials that come from its founding organization Aging with Dignity, [click here](#) or go to <https://agingwithdignity.org>.

Peace,



The Rev. Cathey Edwards
cathey@hopeuu.org



Volume 22

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February
2016

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Sunday Mornings

February 2016

Sunday Religious Education for
Children and Youth
10 am - RE Wing
And Log Cabin

Sunday Adult Religious
Education
10 am - Sanctuary

Sunday Worship
11am - Sanctuary

Sunday, February 7

“What Gives?”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, February 14

“Unexpected Acts of Love”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, February 21

“Can Religion Address Rising
Fundamentalism?”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, February 28

“Can Gun Violence
Be Eliminated?”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

February’s Theme: Generosity



We all give of ourselves. Our gift may be material, such as money, clothing, housing or meals. Our generosity may take an intangible form. For example, we give our time, a sympathetic ear, encouragement, teaching or a simple smile. Our generosity can be life saving—for the recipients as well as us.

We explore generosity as a human trait as well as a theological lens for our lives in a variety of ways this month. It will be the focus of our service on February 7. Hope’s children and youth will look at Generosity in their classes and playing.

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“You give but little when you give of your possessions.
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

— Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

About Our Monthly Themes

Hope Church is a questioning community. It is a safe place to bring doubt and new ideas.

Our monthly themes express Hope Church’s openness to theological exploration. They are not an endorsement of any particular creed or belief. Instead, they provide a monthly opportunity to examine in common a religious doctrine or idea.

If are not receiving *Touchstones*, the electronic newsletter on the monthly theme, please let our administrator, Maggie Scott, know at hopeuu@hopeuu.org.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Sundays 10:00 am—noon

"Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give." — Steve Goodier, M.Div.

RE Clean-up Day February 20, 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Everyone is invited to help cleaning up the RE wing and the log cabin. Stay all day or drop by for an hour or two. Children are welcome to come and help but no childcare will be provided. Free lunch for all workers!

***Raising Charitable Children* by Carol Weisman, MSW, CSP**

How many times have we heard ourselves, our friends, or our kids' grandparents complain that children have too many things and don't appreciate any of it? We all enjoy doing things for children - buying them something special, taking them on a fun outing, throwing a great birthday party. But at the same time, many of us fear that without some balance, most children will grow up thinking only of themselves. This book contains real-life stories and specific steps to translate these ideas into action. *Raising Charitable Children* provides lots of tips for sharing the gifts of generosity, selflessness and compassion with the children of all ages and from all backgrounds.

TV Needed



CRE is in need of a Smart TV for childcare and video-based curriculum. If you are interested in purchasing or donating money towards this need, please contact Susan Spooner.

Parents are always welcome to participate in Children Religious Education. Please join us when the spirit moves you!

Children and Youth Programs
Susan Spooner, Director
918-932-4524, susan@hopeuu.org

Music Notes



February is “Black History Month,” and we have traditionally devoted a service or several services to singing spirituals, not only as a celebration of the history, suffering, and triumph of an important segment of American society, but also to experience these texts and tunes as metaphors for our stand against injustice and of our own individual life journeys. As the choir sings traditional African-American spiritual texts and melodies in a series of anthems throughout the month, we follow in a long tradition of performing choral arrangements of these tunes throughout the last one hundred years and more, especially by black, but also by white and mixed-color choirs.

Some of the great African American composers, collectors, and music arrangers of these texts and tunes include H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949), John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943), Francis Hall Johnson (1888-1970), William Dawson (1898-1990), Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993), and Moses Hogan (1957-2003), among others. (We just sang a version of Dorsey’s “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” last month to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) However, gifted music arrangers of all races have also laid claim to the power and meaning of these songs as they communicate universal meanings, invite our compassion for others, and acknowledge our own humanness and vulnerabilities.

At the UU Musicians Network Conference in Boston last summer we sang under the excellent and inspiring direction of Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, director of the famed Nathaniel Dett Chorale, also known also for his interpretation of Afrocentric choral music. As we sing selections from this repertoire, we are reminded that in the art and expression of the traditional spiritual, the African-American spirit has achieved a certain kind of immortality.

Joseph Rivers

Director of Music, joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org



Valentine’s Day Chocolate Auction Sunday, February 14

Bid on chocolate, cakes, cookies, candy and more. If you would like to donate some chocolate goodies, please bring them to church by 10.00 am. The silent auction will take place after the service. This is a fundraiser for the church.



Evangelizing the South for Unitarian Universalism

Please plan to join us for "Differences that Make a Difference: Multicultural Justice Making Inside and Out" at **Wildflower Church** in Austin from **08-10 April, 2016**.

In today's world, conversations about difference are both difficult and necessary. Unitarian Universalists, with our theology of and commitment to pluralism, are called to lead the way in navigating a respectful discourse around emotional topics such as diversity in culture, ethnicity, and theology in a world that is increasingly divided. At this year's Spring Conference, we will be exploring the differences in our congregations and how they make a difference in the way we chose to be in the world. Complete details are available in the links below.

<http://www.uasouthernregion.org/images/SouthwestSpring2016.pdf>

<http://www.uasouthernregion.org/swspring2016.html>

<http://fd8.formdesk.com/UUASR/SW2016>

Discounted, early registration is open!

Adult Forum

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

February 7: Generosity Sunday. Our speaker is **Scott Hamilton**, the manager of the Tulsa office of **Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma**. He has been with Legal Aid for 35 years. Scott attended law school at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

February 14: It's Oscars tune! **Joseph Rivers**, Director of Music at Hope, will give a presentation on the five films that have been nominated for an Academy Award for best musical score. These films were scored by five different film composers: John Williams, Carter Burwell, Thomas Newman, Johann Johannsson, and Ennio Morricone. This presentation will offer some insight into the background and significance of the film music score and should increase our appreciation for these films and their music. It might make you just a little more excited about the Oscars!

February 21: "How We Got To Be Christian". Our speaker for today is **Dr. Brandon Scott**, New Testament Emeritus at Phillips Theological Seminary. He is presenting his current research.

February 28: The House Meetings are over and now we will discuss the results, the process and the reflections of the participants. We encourage your input.

Anne Steiner
Chair of Adult RE

Community Building – "Let's Talk"

Our house meeting campaign is continuing. Many of you have already been to a house meeting – and we want to **thank you** for your participation!

Hope's goal is to have at least eighty participants. We are almost there, and you can help us reach this goal. We are asking for one hour of your time. Information from these meetings will help us to identify issues that our church can be working on to improve our ministries to our congregation. We also expect to identify issues of a larger nature that may require engaging public officials or community leaders to impact the decisions they make. On these larger issues, we will join with other congregations and organizations through the Tulsa Sponsoring Committee in an effort to make a difference.

If you have not attended a house meeting, here is the schedule of remaining meetings, all of which will be held in the cabin at Hope. Please email me at cvgardnr@sbcglobal.net to make a reservation.

Friday, February 5 at 10:00 am
(childcare available upon request)

Saturday, February 6 at 1:00 pm
(childcare available upon request)

Monday, February 8 at 7:00 pm
(childcare available upon request)

On **Sunday, February 28**, our Adult Forum will be set aside to review the issues you bring up at the house meetings. We will be asking you to prioritize these issues. Please plan to be there. Your input is vital!

Claudia Vandiver

Website Editing Workshop

Saturday, February 20, 10:30 am

For the website team and anyone interesting in joining the team or just helping out. We will begin at 10:30 and break for a pizza lunch.

Please come along to our workshop and help update us into a more dynamic online presence.



Highlights from the Board

From the meeting on 1.26.16

After the chalice was lit and the reports were accepted, **Mary Newman** presented a proposal from the Outreach Committee to use Fair Trade coffee in our Sunday coffee hour. It is a way to demonstrate our commitment to the farmers, communities, and the rainforest. Coffee hour is supported by the donations of coffee drinkers. Although Fair Trade coffee is more expensive; it is definitely more flavorful. The Board later approved.

The Fellowship Dinner has been moved to April 9 as the wrap-up of the Pledge Drive.

The Board decided to reinstitute the Famous **Hope Garage Sale**. It will be April 29 and 30. So save your good stuff to fund the church.

There will be a **Website Editing Workshop** for all those participating on the website team and anyone with an interest on February 20. Beginning at 10:30 with a pizza break. Show up and help update us into a more dynamic online presence.

Fred Pottorf is forming a Task Force to formulate a policy concerning service dogs at Hope Church. All agreed it is a wonderful mission, and we want to create some guidelines to be hospitable to dogs and humans alike.

It is the time of the year to begin thinking of the nominating committee for the next year's slate of officers. I asked the Board to give me 10 nominees to select next year's Board.

The Pledge Drive will kick off in March.

Janet Nobles

President, Board of Trustees

COMING MARCH 1, 2016

A NEW HOPE

PLEDGE DRIVE

Roots Classes

Thursday evenings, February 11, 18, & 25

6:30-8:00 pm, In Rev. Cathey's office



Want to know more about Hope Church? Have questions about Unitarian Universalism and our free religious tradition? Curious about your own religious longings and journey? Considering becoming a member?

The church offers Roots Classes four times a year. These informal, small group sessions lead by our minister the **Rev. Cathey Edwards** allow newcomers an opportunity to learn the basic foundation and history of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and Hope Church. In discussion group format, they are a chance to get to know others in the church. They are a step in becoming a member of the church.

Hope Outreach

Generosity Offering

Each Sunday, we give away ALL of the undesignated funds from our Offering. The Outreach Committee chooses organizations that support the mission of Hope Unitarian Church.

In January we raised

\$1,962.00

**For McClure Elementary School
Thank you for your generosity.**

February Generosity Recipient

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma

Legal Aid is a non-profit organization that provides civil legal assistance to low-income persons.

Scott Hamilton, the manager of the Tulsa office of Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma will be our speaker for Adult Forum on Sunday, February 7. He has been with Legal Aid for 35 years. Scott attended law school at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

McClure Elementary School

Several McClure Elementary School families were affected by a fire in their apartment complex and lost all their belongings. The school is asking for donations of household items, blankets, sheets, towels, a dining room table, chairs and a full or queen size bed to help the families put their homes back together.

There is a donation box in Fellowship Hall. Please contact **Mary Newman** at 918-810-0953 if you have furniture to donate.

Feed the Homeless Program (FTH)

Volunteers from Hope prepare and serve a meal for the folks at the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** every third Saturday of the month.

Thanks to everyone who helped with **FTH** in January:

Keith Hamilton: Shopping

Mary Newman: Friday pre cooking

Saturday prep and cooking with **Mary Newman**

Rich Jackson, Susan Farmai Hai, Diana Cox and Coe McGinley.

Serving the meal at the Day Center with **Jean Coffey & Joan Scheulen Susan Farma Hai, Elaine Dodson, Janet Nobles, Ann Lee, Maren Lee, and Josh Lee.**

123 plates were served.

Next Feed the Homeless date is:

Saturday, February 20

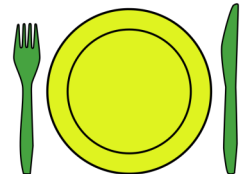
2:30 pm at Hope to help cook and prepare food.

5:00 pm at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless to help serve the meal.

You can sign up for the months ahead. Sign up sheet is in the folder on Administrator's desk.

Feed the Homeless Luncheon

Sunday, February 21



Please join us after church for our Feed the Homeless Luncheon. We will be preparing the same delicious meal we take every month to the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. Donations are appreciated as this is a fundraiser for this monthly meal.

Cereal Sunday

Sunday, February 14

Please bring cereal for the homeless. This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** every month when we prepare their meal. The collection basket is in Fellowship Hall.

Hope Events

Women of Hope

Thursday, February 4, 6:30 pm

Fellowship, good food and an interesting Art Deco slide presentation by the Tulsa Historical Society. Did you know that Tulsa, Oklahoma ranks third in the country for our Art Deco, just behind New York City and Miami, Florida?

Our social time begins at 6:00 pm followed by our potluck at 6:30 and the program at 7:00 pm. Our only requirement is that you bring a food item of your choice. Wine is available, and a \$2.00 donation is always appreciated. Members, friends and guests are welcome to attend this event. Child care is available provided you notify Susan Spooner susan@hopeuu.org by the end of the day Tuesday.

Jane Brumley

Women of Hope Co-Chairperson

Breakfast on the Hill

Sunday, February 7, 9:00 am



Hosted by the **Women of the Thread**. An assortment of casseroles with vegetarian options, muffins, oatmeal and fresh fruit will be served. A donation of \$5.00 per adult is requested. Children eat free.

Movie Night

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 pm

The Help is set in Jackson, Mississippi in 1963. The story revolves around Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, a young white woman, who goes home after graduating from the University of Mississippi. Skeeter discovers that Constantine, the black maid who was a large part of her life growing up, has quit. As she looks for the reasons why Constantine quit, Skeeter begins to explore the relationships between white families and their black help. *The Help* was nominated for three Oscars, and Octavia Spencer won for Best Supporting Actress. This is poignant movie about race in America.

Child care available. Contact **Susan Spooner**, susan@hopeuu.org 48 hours ahead.

Women's Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, February 17 at 11:30 am

February Lunch Bunch restaurant. We will meet at The Ripe Tomato, 8281 South Harvard Avenue.

Contact **Lynn Walters** to make your reservation (918/893-2655) lfwalters@aol.com

Hope's Book Club

The book club will not meet again until sometime in spring, to be determined. We will start with the UUA's common read for 2015-2016. It is "Just Mercy" by Stevenson. For more information contact **Chris Anrig**, cmanrig@hotmail.com

Women of the Thread

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11:30 am in the log cabin

You are invited to join this informal creative group working on our Threads of Hope project to supply lap blankets, shawls, baby blankets for those in need in our church community.

Carrie Muzika, proenviomom@cox.net

Deborah Whittaker, debsharmony@yahoo.com

Brown Bag Lunch

11:30 am every Friday

Bring your lunch and Join us for lively discussions on current topics.

Children and Youth Program

RE Clean-up Day

Saturday, February 20

10 am—3 pm

Everyone is invited to help cleaning up in the Children's RE wing and the log cabin. Stay all day or drop by for an hour or two. Children are welcome to come and help but no child-care will be provided. Stay all day or drop by for an hour or two. *Free lunch for all workers!*

Save The Date

4.17.16

The Congregation of
Hope Unitarian Church
Invites you to the Installation
Of their called minister
Rev. Cathey Edwards
on that Sunday afternoon.

Meet the Minister

Every Sunday, after the service, newcomers and their families are invited to meet with The **Rev. Cathey Edwards** in her office. Get your coffee and cookies and come get to know each other and about Hope.



February Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Alice VanWormer | 10th |
| Irene McKee | 11th |
| Corrie Dorman | 12th |
| Adriana Rivers | 12th |
| Jane Brumley | 17th |
| Harold Nave | 20th |
| Gale Luria | 21st |
| Ruth Jackson | 26th |
| Natalie Leone | 26th |

Key People

When no one is at the church, the building is locked and the security system is on. A committee of key people have keys and security clearance to open and close the building for church events. Each takes a one-week turn

Feb 1-7

Fred Pottorf
918-407-0924

Feb 8-14

Jim Sleezer
918-853-5114

Feb 15-21

Barbara Witt
918-812-3450

Feb 22-Feb 28

Larry Vandiver
918-230-7354

29 Feb-6 March

Eric Reiman
918-260-3677

Policy for function organizers

1. First, determine if someone - attending your function can open the building;
2. Find out if church will be open/closed for another event at the same time as yours;
3. If no one is available and you need entry, contact above volunteer Key Man **a few days in advance of your event.**

For Hope's February Calendar—see Hope's website www.hopeuu.org

Focus Deadline

Submissions to the Focus should be sent to hopeuu@hopeuu.org with "Focus" in the subject line and are normally due **9 am the 4th Wednesday in the month.** Submissions are subject to editing for length and content.

The next Focus will be published March 2. Next Deadline: 9 am, Wednesday, February 24



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TO:

Hope's Vision

Seeking Truth, Sharing Love
Within - Among - Beyond

Hope's Mission

Supporting the free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
Teaching the history and traditions of Unitarianism;
Promoting and defending freedom of thought;
Celebrating life's passages;
Serving the larger community with justice and compassion.

Hope's Values

Reason - Integrity - Tolerance

Our Staff

The Rev. Cathey Edwards, Minister, cathey@hopeuu.org
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Joseph Rivers, Director of Music, joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org
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Office Hours

Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 3:00 pm